



News from Congressman

Tom Lantos

**12th Congressional District of California
San Mateo/San Francisco**

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Lantos Votes Against the So-Called “Partial Birth Abortion Ban” Women’s Right to Choose is Being Threatened

Washington, DC - Congressman Tom Lantos (D-CA) expressed grave disappointment today after an unsuccessful fight against the passage of the Partial Birth Abortion Ban conference report. This legislation would ban a particular type of late-term abortion without including any provisions for the health or well-being of the mother. The bill passed 281 to 142; Lantos voted against it.

“This disturbing piece of legislation turns a deeply personal and private decision into a political issue,” Lantos said. “It is a deceptive attempt to take away a woman’s right to choose what is in the best interest of her own health.”

The legislation focuses on a rarely-used procedure that is referred to as “partial birth abortion” by those who oppose it. Under this bill, a woman cannot elect to have the procedure if carrying the baby to term will endanger her health; she can have the procedure only if her life is in danger. It is directly contrary to the 2000 Supreme Court ruling in *Stenberg v. Carhart* that overturned a Nebraska ban on the procedure.

“This piece of legislation will surely be proven unconstitutional at best and life-threatening at worst,” Lantos noted. “Members of Congress should not instruct physicians in how to practice medicine.”

Lantos, who has been a staunch supporter of a woman’s right to choose throughout his service in Congress, has continued to speak out against recent anti-choice efforts. In addition to denouncing the so-called “Partial Birth Abortion Ban,” Lantos has directly questioned the Bush administration on its recent decision to expand the global gag rule.